

## National Prevention Strategy

# CLINICAL *and* COMMUNITY PREVENTIVE SERVICES

Evidence-based preventive services are effective in reducing death and disability, and are cost-effective or even cost-saving. Preventive services consist of screening tests, counseling, immunizations, or medications used to prevent disease, detect health problems early, or provide people with the information they need to make good decisions about their health. While preventive services are traditionally delivered in clinical settings, some can be delivered within communities, work sites, schools, residential treatment centers, or homes. Clinical preventive services can be supported and reinforced by community-based prevention, policies, and programs.

### ACTIONS: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL

- ▶ Support delivery of clinical preventive services in various health care and out-of-home care settings, including Federally Qualified Health Centers; Bureau of Prisons, Department of Defense, and Veterans Affairs facilities; and among Medicare providers.
  - ▶ Improve monitoring capacity for quality and performance of recommended clinical preventive services.
  - ▶ Identify, pilot, and support strategies to reduce cardiovascular disease, including improving screening and treatment for high blood pressure and cholesterol.
  - ▶ Encourage older adults to seek a free annual Medicare wellness visit, a new benefit provided by the Affordable Care Act.
  - ▶ Educate clinicians, Federal employees, and the public (especially those in underserved populations) about coverage improvements and elimination of cost-sharing for clinical preventive services as set forth in the Affordable Care Act.
  - ▶ Encourage adoption of certified electronic health record technology that meets Meaningful Use criteria, particularly those that use clinical decision supports and registry functionality,
- send reminders to patients for preventive and follow-up care, provide patients with timely access to their health information (e.g., lab results, discharge instructions), identify resources available to patients, and incorporate privacy and security functions (e.g., encrypting health information to keep it secure, generating audit logs to record actions).
- ▶ Improve use of patient-centered medical homes and community health teams, which are supported by the Affordable Care Act.
  - ▶ Promote and expand research efforts to identify high-priority clinical and community preventive services and test innovative strategies to support delivery of these services.
  - ▶ Develop new and improved vaccines, enhance understanding of the safety of vaccines and vaccination practices, support informed vaccine decision making, and improve access to and better use of recommended vaccines.
  - ▶ Research complementary and alternative medicine strategies to determine effectiveness and how they can be better integrated into clinical preventive care.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support the National Quality Strategy's focus on improving cardiovascular health.
2. Use payment and reimbursement mechanisms to encourage delivery of clinical preventive services.
3. Expand use of interoperable health information technology.
4. Support implementation of community-based preventive services and enhance linkages with clinical care.
5. Reduce barriers to accessing clinical and community preventive services, especially among populations at greatest risk.
6. Enhance coordination and integration of clinical, behavioral, and complementary health strategies.



## ACTIONS: PARTNERS CAN

### **Individuals and Families**

- ▶ Visit their health care providers to receive clinical preventive services.
- ▶ Use various tools to access and learn about health and prevention and ways they can better manage their health (e.g., personal health records, text reminder services, smart phone applications).

### **Community, Non-Profit, and Faith-Based Organizations**

- ▶ Inform people about the range of preventive services they should receive and the benefits of preventive services.
- ▶ Support use of retail sites, schools, churches, and community centers for the provision of evidence-based preventive services.
- ▶ Expand public-private partnerships to implement community preventive services (e.g., school-based oral health programs, community-based diabetes prevention programs).
- ▶ Support community health workers, patient navigators, patient support groups, and health coaches.

### **Early Learning Centers, Schools, Colleges, and Universities**

- ▶ Train providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health professionals) to use health information technology and offer patients recommended clinical preventive services as a routine part of their health care.
- ▶ Promote the use of evidence-based preventive services within their health services (e.g., school health programs).

### **Health Care Systems, Insurers, and Clinicians**

- ▶ Inform patients about the benefits of preventive services and offer recommended clinical preventive services, including the ABCS, as a routine part of care.
- ▶ Adopt and use certified electronic health records and personal health records.
- ▶ Adopt medical home or team-based care models.
- ▶ Reduce or eliminate client out-of-pocket costs for certain preventive services, as required for most health plans by the Affordable Care Act, and educate and encourage enrollees to access these services.
- ▶ Establish patient (e.g., mailing cards, sending e-mails, or making phone calls when a patient is due for a preventive health service) and

clinical (e.g., electronic health records with reminders or cues, chart stickers, vital signs stamps, medical record flow sheets) reminder systems for preventive services.


- ▶ Expand hours of operation, provide child care, offer services in convenient locations (e.g., near workplaces), or use community or retail sites to provide preventive services.
- ▶ Create linkages with and connect patients to community resources (e.g., tobacco quitlines), family support, and education programs.
- ▶ Facilitate coordination among diverse care providers (e.g., clinical care, behavioral health, community health workers, complementary and alternative medicine).
- ▶ Communicate with patients in an appropriate manner so that patients can understand and act on their advice and directions.

### **Businesses and Employers**

- ▶ Offer health coverage that provides employees and their families with access to a range of clinical preventive services with no or reduced out-of-pocket costs.
- ▶ Provide incentives for employees and their families to access clinical preventive services consistent with existing law.
- ▶ Give employees time off to access clinical preventive services.
- ▶ Provide employees with on-site clinical preventive services and comprehensive wellness programs consistent with existing law.
- ▶ Provide easy-to-use employee information about clinical preventive services covered under the Affordable Care Act.

### **State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Governments**

- ▶ Increase delivery of clinical preventive services, including ABCS, by Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers.
- ▶ Foster collaboration among community-based organizations, the education and faith-based sectors, businesses, and clinicians to identify underserved groups and implement programs to improve access to preventive services.
- ▶ Create interoperable systems to exchange clinical, public health, and community data, streamline eligibility requirements, and expedite enrollment processes to facilitate access to clinical preventive services and other social services.
- ▶ Expand the use of community health workers and home visiting programs.

 **More information can be found at:**

*Website:*

[www.HealthCare.gov/nationalpreventioncouncil](http://www.HealthCare.gov/nationalpreventioncouncil)

*Email:*

[prevention.council@hhs.gov](mailto:prevention.council@hhs.gov)

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**Healthy & Safe  
Community  
Environments**



**Clinical &  
Community  
Preventive Services**



**Empowered  
People**



**Elimination  
of Health  
Disparities**

